

**Assessing payment adequacy and updating payments: ambulatory surgical centers, hospice, inpatient rehabilitation facilities, and long-term care hospitals**

**ISSUE:** By law, each year the Commission is required to review Medicare payment policies and to make recommendations to the Congress. The Commission asks whether payments to ambulatory surgical centers (ASCs), hospices, inpatient rehabilitation facilities (IRFs), and long-term care hospitals (LTCHs) are adequate and how they should be updated in 2015.

**KEY POINTS:** We evaluate several factors to determine the adequacy of Medicare payments for each of these provider types: beneficiaries' access to services, quality of care, providers' access to capital, and providers' Medicare payments and costs. Not every measure is available for each of these sectors

**ACTION:** Staff will review the findings presented at the December 2013 meeting; Commissioners should review the material and be prepared to vote on the payment updates for these sectors at the January 2014 meeting.

**STAFF CONTACT:** Ariel Winter (ASCs); Kim Neuman (hospice), Sara Sadownik (inpatient rehabilitation facilities), and Dana Kelley (long-term care hospitals) (202-220-3700).